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at 4 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DE ROJAS (Venezuela)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the Group of Western European and Other States had nominated Mr. Glanzer (Austria) for one of the posts of Vice-Chairman, and that the Group of Asian States had nominated Mr. Rae Kwon Chung (Republic of Korea) for the post of Rapporteur.

2. Mr. Glanzer (Austria) and Mr. Rae Kwon Chung (Republic of Korea) were elected Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively, by acclamation.

3. Mr. KAMANDO (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Group of African States had been consulting on the nomination of a candidate for the post of Rapporteur. Since that post had been allocated to the Group of Asian States, the Group of African States, which played a vital role in the Group of 77, would nominate a candidate for the second post of Vice-Chairman.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/52/250, A/C.2/52/L.1 and Add.1)

4. The CHAIRMAN said that meetings would begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If a speaker was absent, that delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers for that meeting.

5. Based on previous experience, it was proposed that the time limits for all speakers should be 15 minutes in the general debate and 7 minutes on individual agenda items. Those time limits would also apply to speakers from the agencies, funds and programmes. Introductory statements by members of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes would be limited to 10 minutes. Introductory statements should focus on highlights and priorities and, if possible, be distributed in advance.

6. The Committee's agenda was based on the clusters of items laid down in resolution 50/227 and the time-frame laid down in resolution 48/162. The programme of work took into account the availability of reports and, to the extent possible, the ability of high-level representatives of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes to be present at meetings.

7. The Bureau would consider proposals for themes and focus for discussion under the clusters of items, in accordance with resolution 50/227. Members of the Committee were invited to convey their suggestions to the Bureau. The selection of a theme would not preclude the delivery of statements on other specific issues under the cluster.

8. In accordance with resolution 50/227, the Bureau would meet with the Bureau of the Third Committee in order to review the respective programmes of work, identify potential areas of overlap and make recommendations to the Committee.

9. As requested in resolution 50/227, draft resolutions would be shorter. Procedural issues would be dealt with in decisions rather than resolutions. The Bureau would explore the possibility of dealing with clusters of related items

in omnibus or combined resolutions. Also in accordance with resolution 50/227, at the end of the session, the Committee would review its draft programme for the following year with a view to rationalizing and simplifying reporting procedures. Deadlines for the submission of draft proposals would be strictly applied.

10. Following the successful practice of the previous year, there would be a number of executive briefings by senior officials, panel discussions on topics on the Committee's agenda and keynote addresses. All suggestions from Committee members were welcome.

11. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the arrangements he had outlined were acceptable to the Committee.

12. It was so decided.

13. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to document A/C.2/51/L.1, and to the action taken by the General Assembly based on the recommendations contained in the first report of the General Committee (A/52/250) relating to the organization of the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

14. Mr. BUNCH (Chief of the Documentation Programming and Monitoring Unit) drew attention to the document on the status of preparation of documentation (A/C.2/52/L.1/Add.1), and provided updated information on the projected date of issue of a number of documents.

15. Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Committee) announced the following changes in the draft proposed programme of work. Agenda item 95 (a) on Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries, would be considered on 16 October and on the morning of 17 October. The following footnote would be added to that item: "In its resolution 50/227, the General Assembly decided that the question of the conference on the financing of development would be considered under this item at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly".

16. Item 95 (d) on external debt crisis and development would also be considered on 16 October and the morning of 17 October. Item 95 (c) on science and technology for development would be considered during the afternoon of 17 October. Items scheduled for consideration during the following week would be taken up one day later than originally planned. Thus, item 99 on operational activities for development would be considered on 20 October. At the request of the Alliance of Small Island States, consideration of agenda item 98 on environment and sustainable development and its sub-items 98 (b), (c), (d), (e) and, in particular, (f), "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", would be deferred to 11 November, as the scheduled date of 21 October coincided with an important meeting of interest to the small island developing States. The entire day of 21 October and the afternoon of 22 October would be devoted to informal consultations. Agenda item 96 on sectoral policy questions and its sub-items would be discussed on 24 October, with the exception of item 96 (c) on food and sustainable agricultural development, which would be considered on the afternoon of 30 October so that the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations (FAO) could be present to report on the outcome of the World Food Summit. Item 95 (b) on trade and development would be rescheduled to 10 November, when documentation would be available, and in order to enable the Committee to consider the outcome of a high-level meeting on the least developed countries, to be held in Geneva.

17. Mr. PEDROSO CUESTA (Cuba), referring to document A/C.2/52/L.1, requested the Chairman to circulate the letter referred to in paragraph 1. Regarding paragraph 5, he said that to his knowledge, the General Assembly had not taken any formal decision concerning the opening of meetings. He expressed concern that curtailed servicing of informal consultations or working groups (para. 6) might be detrimental to the work of the Group of 77. Finally, he expressed surprise that the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: Review of institutional and programme issues" (A/51/152 and Add.1) was not included in the documentation to be considered under item 95 (b) on trade and development, since consideration of that report had already been postponed at the fifty-first session.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee secretariat would make every effort to ensure that the necessary conference services would be available for informal consultations. The letter from the President of the General Assembly would be circulated to members as soon as possible. In the meantime, the items proposed for allocation to the Second Committee could be found in the first report of the General Committee (A/52/250).

19. Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the statement by the representative of Cuba, said that the General Committee had indeed recommended the waiver of a requirement of the presence of at least one quarter of the members to declare a meeting open, and the General Assembly had endorsed that recommendation. She would look into the matter of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and report to the Committee.

20. Mr. GRAFF (Luxembourg) said that although postponing consideration of items 98 (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) until the end of the session would leave time for informal consultations, the Committee might not have any draft resolution ready for discussion at that early stage of its deliberations. It would also separate the cluster of sub-items on environment and sustainable development.

21. Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Committee) said that the time could be used for panel discussions or preliminary work on draft resolutions. Sub-items (a) and (g) had been separated from the rest of the cluster in response to comments from delegations at the previous session that the cluster contained too many topics to be covered in one statement.

22. Mr. A'ALA (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Arabic text of A/C.2/52/L.1, paragraph 5, was misleading and should be corrected. His delegation was concerned about the availability of interpretation services for informal consultations.

23. The CHAIRMAN agreed that interpretation was essential to the success of informal consultations. However, services originally allocated to plenary meetings could be used for consultations instead.

24. Mr. WINNICK (United States of America) said that, since some of the more weighty matters on the Committee's agenda had been moved to the end of its programme of work, members would need to ensure that discussion of earlier items were completed promptly, in order to keep on schedule.

25. Mr. DELANEY (Papua New Guinea) agreed that it might be preferable to consider the entire cluster on environment and sustainable development together. His delegation would also welcome information about the content of the omnibus resolutions as early as possible.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that the Bureau was ready to receive suggestions from members regarding their content.

27. The draft proposed programme of work contained in A/C.2/52/L.1, as orally revised, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.